



Welcome to Temple Beth El of Augusta, Maine

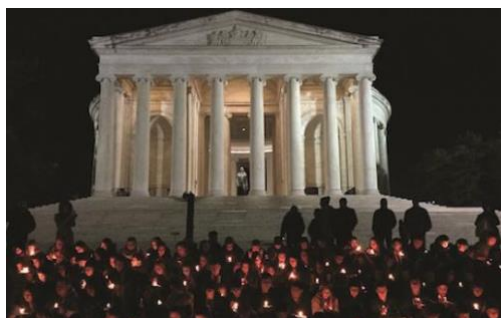
*embracing a spirit of community, lifelong Jewish learning, commitment to
inclusiveness, and active participation in Jewish life in Central Maine*

artwork by Lenora Leibowitz

Tevet-Sh'vat-Adar 5778/Jan-Feb 2018

From the desk of Rabbi Asch

I was recently asked by a community member if I travel a lot for work. My initial reaction was to say no, but upon reflection I realized that I do travel quite a bit. This past month, I attended the Biennial of the Union for Reform Judaism in Boston. In addition to hearing inspiring speakers and attending workshops on everything from leading worship to teaching tots, I went there to receive the [2017 Fain Award](#) on behalf of Temple Beth El. We were one of only 17 congregations across our movement to be recognized for our social action programming, specifically for our work with the Capital Area New Mainers Project.



In January, I will be travelling to Washington, D.C., with five Temple teens to take part in the [L'Taken Seminar](#). We will join with others from across North America for four days of learning what Jewish values say about national issues. We will tour Washington, including the Holocaust Memorial Museum. After researching an issue, students will lobby our senators and representatives (or at least their staffs) on Capitol Hill. You'll hear more about this trip through our Facebook page, in a future newsletter, and when our teens speak at the Temple about their experiences.

I also am travelling regularly as part of my work on the board of the Central Conference of American Rabbis. It is an honor to serve and to bring the voice of small congregation rabbis to our national body. I am particularly proud of two initiatives the board is undertaking. After conducting two intensive studies, we are beginning to discuss how to address issues of isolation and stress in the rabbinate. We have also established a [Task Force on the Experience of Women in the Rabbinate](#) to better understand and to begin to address issues of gender bias.

This does not even include my travel around our state to meet with rabbis and congregations in Portland and Bath to talk about the [Center for Small Town Jewish Life](#) and our upcoming conference (mark your calendars for June 8th through 10th!) and my travel up to Colby College to work with the Jewish students there.



CENTER FOR
SMALL TOWN
JEWISH LIFE

Don't worry. Despite all this traveling around you will still find me in the office or around Augusta most days, and I have plenty of time to meet with congregants, teach Hebrew School, and lead services and Torah study. I am grateful to all of you and our Temple board for the opportunity to engage in statewide and national work. This helps to bring the voices of small congregations to our national leaders and connects us more closely with our national organizations. For me, this is part of what is important about being part of a national movement. We are able to learn from others and have a say in what we do nationally. Perhaps most importantly, we can share with them all of the wonderful work we are doing.

TBE Schedule: January — February

Services

Friday, January 12
6:00pm Shabbat Services
7:00pm Potluck Dinner

Saturday, January 13
9:00am Tot Shabbat

Saturday, January 20
10:30am Shabbat service
12:00pm Kiddush lunch

Friday, February 2
7:00pm Shabbat service

Friday, February 9
6:00pm Shabbat Services
7:00pm Potluck Dinner

Friday, February 23
6:00pm Shabbat Services
7:00pm Potluck Dinner

Torah Study

Saturday, January 13
10:30am

Saturday, January 27
10:30am

Saturday, February 10
10:30am

Saturday, February 24
10:30am

Hebrew School

Sunday, January 7, 9:30am
Sunday, January 14, 9:30am
Sunday, January 21, 9:30am
Sunday, January 28, 9:30am
Sunday, February , 9:30am
Sunday, February , 9:30am

TBE Activities

Saturday, January 13
9:15am Jewish Meditation

Monday, January 15
6:30pm Beth El in Action

Wednesday, January 17
6:00pm Board Meeting

Wednesday, January 24
6:00pm TBE Book Club

Saturday, January 27
9:15am Jewish Meditation
6:30pm 20th Annual Ice Storm Wine Tasting

Wednesday, January 31
5:30pm Tu B'Shevat Seder

Saturday, February 3
10:30am Shabbat in the Wild & Potluck Lunch

Saturday, February 10
5:30pm Tot Havdallah

Monday, February 12
6:00pm Board Meeting

Wednesday, February 28
5:00pm Hamantaschen Cooking
6:00pm Purim Celebration

Interfaith Activities

Every Tuesday
12:30pm Volunteering at Addie's Attic

Monday, January 15
10:00am MLK Day Event @ St. Francis Xavier Church, Winthrop

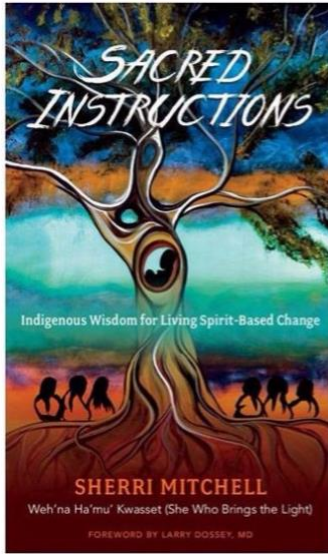
Wednesday, Feb. 7
11:00am Interfaith Study

Your Rabbi in Action!



As the head of a small congregation, Rabbi Asch has a variety of responsibilities. This past month, she: led Tot Shabbat services, met with the committee to redesign the temple website, went to the biennial conference of Reform Jews in Boston (where she met up with the new rabbi in Bath, Lisa Vinakor), did a Hanukkah program at the local library, and even cleaned up the temple office. And that doesn't even include services, Torah study, visiting with congregants, and all her "regular" rabbinic duties!





Sherri Mitchell

Sacred Instructions

An interactive discussion
about healing in ourselves
and in our communities

Sherri Mitchell was born and raised on the Penobscott Indian Reservation. She has spent her life working for justice and healing for Indigenous Peoples. A lawyer, poet, scholar and philosopher, she is currently the Executive Director of the Land Peace Foundation.

A continental breakfast will be served.

Donations accepted to support Healing Turtle Island

Monday, January 15th
10am-12pm
St. Francis Xavier Church
130 U.S.Route 133, Winthrop

Thank you Senators Shenna Bellows and Roger Katz and Representatives Craig Hickman, Matthew Pouliot and Charlotte Warren for your financial support.



Sponsored by: Winthrop Area Ministerial Association
& Capital Area Multifaith Association

Join Us for Jewish Meditation at Temple Beth El

Saturday, Jan. 13th & Sat., Jan. 27th @ 9:15am

Meditation has been a part of Jewish spiritual practice as far back as Talmudic times. We practice meditation because we value it as a spiritual practice and we do it in the context of the Jewish experience. We incorporate Jewish text, language, and intention, for that touches our souls. For us it is a method for waking up, for developing more precise awareness of our inner and outer lives from moment to moment. It is a practice that connects the inner self with the outer world in a more direct manner, creating a deeper sense of interpersonal relationship and a more intimate link to the physical world. It helps to develop and sustain a sense of the oneness of all Creation and a connection with God.



We will sit in community in silence. Meditators with a wide variety of experiences, practices and approaches are welcome and will come together seeking the collective support and good energy of sitting together.



Hanukkah is always a special time at TBE. We place our hanukkiyah (crafted by temple member Robert Katz) out front and welcome everyone for songs, latkes, and dreidel playing. In our first annual "Mensch Madness" tournament, Jane Rubin-Irish systematically dismantled the opposition to take home the coveted Silver Dreidel. Special thanks to Chuck Cohen, Anya Goldey, and Lila Goldey for making latkes galore.



PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE
20TH ANNIVERSARY ICE STORM MEMORIAL
WINE TASTING



SATURDAY, JANUARY 27, 6:30 P.M.*

TEMPLE BETH EL
3 WOODLAWN STREET
AUGUSTA, MAINE

FINE WINES
SELECTED FOR THE OCCASION
BY SOMMELIER SYD SEWALL!

SILENT AUCTION!

LIVE MUSIC
BY ETHAN BESSEY AND FRIENDS!

GOURMET MIDDLE EASTERN CUISINE
PRESENTED BY THE
LEARNING ENGLISH THROUGH COOKING CLASS!

\$60 PER PERSON, ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT TBE

BE SURE TO RESERVE EARLY~
SEATING IS LIMITED.

RSVP BETHELAUGUSTA@GMAIL.COM
OR 207-622-7450 BY JANUARY 19

*SNOW DATE: SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 4 PM

PLEASE NOTE: ALL GUESTS MUST BE OVER AGE 21.
WE CANNOT ACCOMMODATE WALK-INS.

20th ANNIVERSARY WINE TASTING

Saturday, January 27, 2018

PLEASE DONATE FOR THE SILENT AUCTION!!

Temple Beth El has fun plans to celebrate our 20th Ice Storm Memorial Wine Tasting. In honor of the occasion, our own sommelier Syd Sewall is selecting vintages with a “**Great Wines, Past and Present**” theme. The tasting will be accompanied by delectable **international cuisine**. We are thrilled to welcome back the musical stylings of **Ethan Bessey's band**.

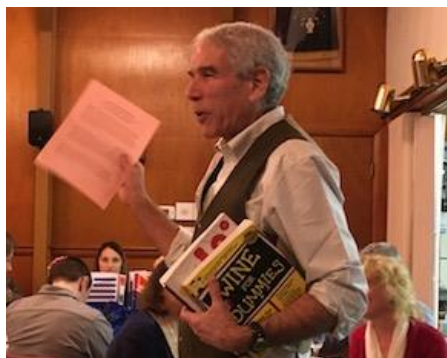
To once again make this a more robust fundraiser for the Temple, we are bringing back the **Silent Auction** as part of the event. **WE NEED YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS!** Please think creatively about donations. Our goal is to feature at least 50 items, with a wide range of bidding opportunities, so we need many members to help! Some things to consider donating include:

- **Treasures:** art, crafts, jewelry, sports or other memorabilia, a bottle of vintage wine, a themed gift basket, etc.
- **Food:** jams, jellies, cookies, cakes – you know what people like!
- **Experiences:** gourmet or themed dinner at your home; tickets to sports events; tickets to music, dance or theater performances; use of a vacation home; ski passes; a guided hike; a round of golf at your course, a boat ride, a canoe or kayak trip, a VIP tour of a special place; etc.
- **Services:** music or art lessons; pet sitting; baby -sitting; a photo shoot; graphic design (business cards, web site, etc.); legal or financial consultation

We would love to know about your donation commitment by the end of December and have all items at the Temple by Sunday, January 7, 2018.

To help us plan, please complete the donation form on page 5 and send/email to Fran Rudoff as soon as possible:

PO Box 71, Litchfield, ME 04350 or
frudoff@gmail.com (582-3826)



What's Happening at TBE

Temple Beth El 2018 Wine Tasting January 27, 2018 SILENT AUCTION!

We're bringing back the Silent Auction for the 20th anniversary of the Temple's wine tasting and we need your donations! Please think creatively about donations - art, crafts, jewelry, baked goods, experiences (dinner at your home), tickets to sports events or performances, use of a vacation home, ski passes, a round of golf at your course, a boat ride, a canoe or kayak trip, music or art lessons, a VIP tour, pet sitting, baby sitting, sports or other memorabilia, a bottle of vintage wine, a themed gift basket, a photo shoot, etc.

Please complete this donation form and send/email to Fran Rudoff as soon as possible,
but no later than January 7, 2018.

PO Box 71, Litchfield, ME 04350 or frudoff@gmail.com, 207-582-3826

Name of Donor: _____

Name of Contact, if business: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Description of Donation Item:

Suggested Value: _____

Auction donations should be dropped off at the Temple by Sunday, January 7, 2018. **If items need to be picked up, please provide details:**

If the item is a gift certificate, will you provide the certificate and promotional material for the auction? ____yes ____no If no, how will we receive the certificate? _____

Note: No goods or service were provided in exchange for this charitable donation, allowing the value of the contribution to be tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

Temple Beth El * PO Box 871 * Augusta, Maine 04332 * 207-622-7450
bethelaugusta@gmail.com

Shabbat in the Wild
Saturday, February 3rd @ 10:30am
Shabbat Shira 5778

Join Susan Bakaley and Chris Marshall in the Montville countryside on February 3rd at 10:30 am for our 16th annual "Shabbat in the Wild." At this time of deepest cold and dark, a spark of life is stirring in the roots of trees although growth hasn't yet begun. Trees can teach us about this hidden "inkling" that precedes all creating, showing us how our own inner spark can grow and flourish.

We are celebrating Shabbat Shira, the crossing of the Sea of Reeds in to liberation, and Tu B'Shvat, the birthday of the trees. We'll start indoors in a circular yurt. Then, take our prayers outdoors along moderate trails, stopping at particular points to chant, offer readings, and share with each other.

Dress for the weather, wearing boots and layers. Bring warm hats, gloves or mittens, birdseed or breadcrumbs, and snow shoes, if you have them. Skis don't work well on these trails.

There will be a dairy potluck lunch at the house. Bring a favorite tree fruit to share for our dessert. Contact Rabbi Asch for carpooling from Temple Beth El. For more information, directions, and RSVP contact Susan and Chris (wiseroack@fairpoint.net or 589-4632).



Tu B'Shvat Seder
Wednesday, January 31st @ 5:30pm

Join us as we celebrate the new year for the trees! Our Tu B'Shvat Seder will feature stories, songs, dancing, activities, and discussion for **all ages**. You will not want to miss this beautiful evening. Please bring a fruit or nut to share (see below). Soup, salad, and bread will be provided. **Advance sign-ups are required. We will only do this event if we have enough people sign up.** Please RSVP online at: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d48a5a922a2ff2-tubshevat2> or by calling the office. **Sign up by Monday, January 29th.**

Last name

A-F: Fruits or nuts with shells (citrus fruits, banana, etc.)

G-M: Fruits with pits (dates, olives, etc.)

N-R: Totally edible fruits (grapes, figs, etc.)

S-Z: Grape juice (red or white)

Beth El in Action Tackles Diversity in Education

By Emily Bessey

Last spring, members of our community led meetings to get a sense from Temple Beth El members what they cared about in their local community. The creation of Temple Beth El In Action has been an inspiring process. With a great deal of feedback, our group has decided to put our energy into the issue of Diversity in Education. We have held several meetings to help us narrow down our focus and have decided to focus our efforts on encouraging school districts to:

- embrace a multicultural district wide calendar that adds Jewish and Muslim holidays to the already listed Christian holidays
- create a reasonable make-up policy for tests scheduled on holidays
- commit to not schedule major school events, such as homecoming, parent-teacher conferences, or school concerts on major Jewish and Muslim holidays
- have an attendance policy that does not penalize students for missing school due to holidays

We will advocate with our Muslim neighbors to ensure that their background is respected, such as not making students sit in the cafeteria when they are fasting during Ramadan. Our hope is to have an impact locally starting in Augusta, Winthrop, and RSU 2 and then to look to statewide action. At this stage, we are building partnerships with lay leaders and clergy from area congregations to build a broad coalition. We are working to learn more about what policies already exist in the school districts and will meet with local school board members to discuss our proposal. The Jewish community in Brunswick has been successful with implementing some of these changes, and we are following their ideas and trusting their feedback. An important aspect of this is reminding our group to keep our advocacy positive. Adding Jewish and Muslim holidays to the calendar does not detract from the holidays that are already on there. Our message is that these changes are about building a stronger, more diverse community that is focused on strong families and supporting our neighbors. Our team is working hard to reach these goals.

What can you do to be involved?

- Do you know someone on the school board in Winthrop, Augusta, or RSU 2 (Farmdingdale, Monmouth, Dresden, Richmond and Hallowell)? If so, let us know. We would love to have you set up a meeting with them.
- Do you have a recent story about how a school scheduled an event (field trip, back to school night, concert, etc) on a Jewish holiday? Let us know. We are looking for people to share their stories.
- Do you know someone outside of TBE who would be interested in this issue? Let us know. We are looking for people to join us.
- Join us Monday, January 15th from 6:30 to 8:00pm at TBE as we finalize our proposal and discuss how we will approach local school boards.



What's Happening at TBE

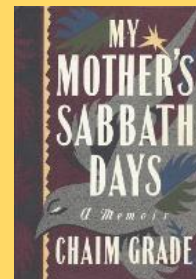


Rabbi Asch accepted the 2017 Fain Award from the Religious Action Center of the Union for Reform Judaism. This important award honored TBE's "engaging, innovative" social action, particularly for its work in helping launch the Capital Area New Mainers Project.

Purim Celebration For All Ages Wednesday, Feb. 28th 6:00pm @ TBE

Join us for megillah reading, hamantaschen eating, and general merry-making. This event – like Purim itself – is for ALL AGES! Yes, adults can dress up in costume and get a bit crazy. Watch the weekly email for details.

TBE Book Club Wednesday, Jan. 24 6:00pm @ TBE



We will meet for a potluck dinner and discussion of *My Mother's Sabbath Days* by Chaim Grade. Email Nan to RSVP: bethelaugusta@gmail.com.

Hebrew School



TBE Hebrew School came together and cooked a full meal, including soup, bread, tuna salad, and chocolate chip cookie bars, for the warming center in Augusta. Thank you to Sarah Miller for coming in to talk to us about the center and to our kids and volunteers for making this all happen!

B'nai Mitzvah Update

The B'nai Mitzvah class finished its study of the book of writings by writing their own poems about God. We found a lot of differences in belief in our group, which was a wonderful thing. Mazel tov to all our Hebrew students who are getting checked off on their prayers. Please keep up the good work over break!



Bria's Class Counts Its Blessings

Bria's class has finished their review of the Torah and is learning about blessings, including the *Shehecheyanu*. We practiced writing our own *brachot sheh b'lev* (prayers of the heart), including a blessing for snow! Above, our new *madricha*, Julianna, teaches Hebrew vocab.

Heroes and Hebrew in Amy's Class

In our Judaica class, we have completed our unit on Jewish lifecycle events. After a couple lessons on Hanukkah related material, we just started a new workbook based on Jewish heroes and the values they exemplified. Our latest hero is Rabbi Johanan Ben Zakkai who saved Judaism 2,000 years ago by establishing a sanctuary in the city of Yavneh after the Roman siege of Jerusalem. Along with a handful of other rabbis and Jewish scholars, Rabbi Johanan Ben Zakkai preserved Judaism and made it possible for us to practice *Talmud Torah*.

In Hebrew, we are continuing to work on learning blessings and prayers from our Circle Time booklets. Many students are making great progress by studying at home and have been able to check off blessings on our Star Chart. Keep it up!

Hebrew School Schedule

Sunday, Jan. 7 @9:30am
Sunday, Jan. 14 @9:30am
Sunday, Jan. 21 @ 9:30am
Sunday, Jan. 28 @9:30am
Sunday, Feb. 4 @9:30am
Sunday, Feb. 11 @9:30am

No school on:

Feb. 18 & Feb. 25

Donations

Building Fund

- Sumner Lipman

Rabbi Discretionary Fund

- Patricia & Allen Davis
- Elaine Katz-Hanish & Martin Hanish in memory of Sidney Katz

Terumah

- Karen & Jeff Boston
- Judith Feinstein
- Seth Greene
- Tinker & Reg Hannaford
- Roger Katz
- Hildie Lipson
- Ellen & Edward Ringel
- Fran Rudoff
- Scott Schiff-Slater
- Becky Schnur & Jack Schlottman
- Nancy & Charles Shuman

Yahrzeit/Memorials

- Anonymous in memory of Lt. Col. Roland E. Peixotto, Jr., USAF
- Rabbi Erica & Chris Myers Asch in memory of Robert P. Myers
- Li'el Boudreau in memory of Julia Feldman
- Li'el Boudreau in memory of Arlene Fine
- Li'el Boudreau in memory of Martha Simmons
- Rabbi Susan Bulba Carvutto in gratitude to the community
- Richard Dana in memory of Lenora Dana
- Richard Dana in memory of Jacob Dana
- Sarah & Michael Drickey in memory of Dorothy Drickey
- Ellen Freed in memory of Leah Freed
- Joan & Lowell Freiman in memory of Beatrice Freiman
- Anya & Allen Goldey in memory of Beatrice Freiman
- Richard Goldman in memory of David S. Goldman
- James Montell in memory of Hayden Goldberg
- Jill Robinson in memory of Harold Robinson
- Albert Rudoff in memory of Sylvia Rudoff
- Fran Rudoff in memory of Sylvia Rudoff
- Beth & Steven Shapiro in memory of Daniel Bulba
- Beth & Steven Shapiro in memory of Eli Bulba
- Gail & Gary Weiss in memory of Natalie & Max Cohen

Making a donation to Temple Beth El is a special way to honor family and friends.

Terumah

This fund includes the former General Fund and Dues and covers all temple operating expenses.

Building Fund

This fund is for major repair and rebuilding of our facilities.

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

This fund helps Rabbi Asch meet special needs in the community.

Yahrzeit/Memorials/Honoraria

These contributions are made in memory or honor of family and friends.

Memorial Plaques

Remember a loved one with a memorial plaque in the synagogue.
Donation: \$250
Payment due at time of order.

Tree of Life

Acknowledge a life milestone in a special way by adding a personalized, inscribed leaf to the Tree. Donation: \$36.
Payment due at time of order.

Please make checks payable to Temple Beth El. Indicate the fund to which you want to contribute and mail to TBE, Box 871, Augusta, ME 04332. Undesignated checks will go to the General Fund. *Temple Beth El accepts Visa & Mastercard. Please contact the office with any questions.*



Temple Beth El

Phone 207-622-7450
 Rabbi Erica Asch 207-242-9792
 Email: bethelaugusta@gmail.com

President

Chuck Cohen

Vice President

Emily Bessey

Immediate Past President

Anya Goldey

Treasurer

Hildie Lipson

Secretary

Peter Rosenberg

Hebrew School

Emily Bley

Yad B'Yad

Judith Plano

Membership

Robert Adler

Building

Syd Sewall

Board of Directors

Bob Adler, Jerry Bley, Mike Drickey, Richard Goldman, Nancy Kelly, Judith Plano, Fran Rudoff, Lila Solomon, Chris Zinck

Honorary Directors

Julius Goos, Sumner Lipman, Stanley Sclar

January Yahrzeits

January 2	Edmond Betit
January 3	Leoni Adler
	Howard Director
January 4	Pauline Cohen
January 5	Rhoda Boughton
	Rose Michelson
January 6	Dorothy Bader
	Dorothy Deitch
January 7	Faye Goldberg Montell
	Annie Slosberg
January 12	Myron Shulman
January 13	Evelyn Apogi Bickerman
January 14	Solomon Cohen
	Philmore Schiff
January 15	Jane Bridgman Koopman
January 16	Ted Beatty
January 17	Ruth McLinn
January 18	Leo David Bessey
	Elkan C. Offer
	William Woolner
January 20	Jarvey Gilbert
January 22	Rose Eckert
January 23	Theo Lipman
January 24	Jacques Grunblatt
January 25	James Carvutto
January 26	Leonard Fels
	Frank J. Lipman
January 28	Jacob Dana
	Orbie Lee Ortell
January 30	Thelma Gross
January 31	Richele Amy Gross

February Yahrzeits

February 1	Beatrice Schatz
February 2	Meyer Muller
	Douglas Schair
February 4	Selma Dana
	Leah Deborah Freed
February 5	William Wells
February 6	Len Bolonsky
	Sidney J. Sussman
February 7	Richard Goldman
	Odell Kominers
February 8	Morris L. Cohen
	Erik Eckert
	John Stanhope
February 9	Anna Imondi
February 10	Virginia Seager
February 11	Ezra David Bessey
	Lauraine Goodrich
February 12	Betty Franzel
	Harry Thielman
February 13	Sydney Cash
	Morey Lerman
	Davis Spalding
February 15	Yetta Marienhoff
February 16	Isadore L. Risen
February 17	Harry M. Slosberg
February 18	Walter Barlow
	Frederick LaPenna
February 20	Hyman Cohen
February 21	Sydney Sewall
February 23	Laura Goldstein
February 24	Rose Golden
February 28	Mollie Libben

Portland Chevra Kadisha

Jewish Funeral Home
 471 Deering Ave.
 Portland, ME 04103
 207-771-0700

*Refuah
 Sh'leimah
 (Get Well) to:*

Carol Graham
 Julius Goos
 Harriet Katz
 Judy Plano
 Nick Scott

Condolences

We express our deepest condolences to Chris Marshall and Susan Bakaley on the death of Chris's mother Rosemary Marshall on December 11, 2017.